Schemes for children exposed to risks

1483. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the programmes and schemes being run by her Ministry for the protection of children exposed to different kinds of risks; and

(b) the total amount of expenditure incurred by Government under each of these schemes during 2003-04 to 2005-06, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the following schemes for welfare of children:

(i) An Integrated Programme for Street Children;

(ii) A Programme for Juvenile Justice;

(iii) Scheme for the Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection;

Civ) Scheme for Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for Children to Promote In-Country Adoption.

(b) The details of grant-in-aid released under these schemes are available on the Ministry's website www.wcd.nic.in

Universalisation of ICDS and Anganwadis

1484. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken for the universalisation of Integrated Child Development Scheme and anganwadis;

(b) whether any proposal is now under consideration for the quality improvement of the work of anganwadis and for ensuring better infrastructure facilities;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration for providing a minimum training to the workers and helpers of anganwadis and to improve their status and remuneration; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) In pursuance

of the commitment of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government, to provide a functional Anganwadi Centre in every settlement/habitation, the ICDS Scheme has been expanded twice in the last two years. The first expansion was in the year 2005-06 when 466 ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Centres were sanctioned. In 2nd expansion approved in the current year, for 173 additional Projects and 107274 additional Anganwadi Centres and 25961 Mini-Anganwadis have been sanctioned. Moreover, many Projects/AWCs sanctioned in the IX Plan have also been operationalized in the last two years. As a result, number of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition & pre-school education has gone up from 415.08 lakh and 204.38 lakh as on 31.3.2004 to 654.65 lakh & 271.28 lakh respectively as on 30.09.2006.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) To develop the skills and update the knowledge of the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) & Helpers (AWHs), modules both for Job & Refresher Training are already in place under the ICDS Scheme. At present Anganwadi workers are given job training for 26 days, Refresher training for 5 days and Induction training for 6 days. Similarly Anganwadi Helpers are given Refresher training for 4 days and orientation training for 6 days.

A Review Committee set up to examine the current levels of honorarium & other related issues of AWWs and AWHs has submitted its report recently which is under consideration of the Government.

Funds under ICDS

1485. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and utilized under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that children in African continent are better placed in comparison to Indian children in respect of nutrition care; and-

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY). (a) The details of funds released and expenditure reported by States under ICDS Scheme